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Sugar Status Discussed BEFORE COMMITTEE In All Its Many Phases

Washington, Jan. 24.—The Cuban
reciprocity hearings were resumed to-
day before the Ways and Means Com-
mittee, with a large attendance of
those representing the beet and cane
sugar, tobacco and other interests op-
posed to concessions to Cuba. The
attitude of the Hawaiian sugar plant-
ers opposing concessions to Cuba was
presented by William Haywood, for-
merly United States Consul General
at Honolulu and now representing the
Hawaiian planters and the Chamber of
Commerce of Hawaii, in the course
of his statement he said:

"Hawaii is not opposed to Cuba be-
ing assisted if Congress in its wisdom
decides that the United States is mor-
ally responsible for Cuba's welfare. It
gives to Cuba a free market for her sug-
ar will be to give an alien people just
as much advantage as American citi-
zenship gives to Hawaiians, and the
extra advantage of not being obliged to
conform to the stringent laws re-
garding labor and immigration. With
annexation Hawaii lost her best source
of labor supply—Cuba. The islands
are so isolated that labor does not nat-
urally come to Hawaii, but must be
brought. All her food, clothing, machin-
ery, and, in fact, everything but a few
vegetables, comes from the States, and
the only thing she has to pay with is
sugar."

What was most feared, he said, was
that free trade with Cuba, or some-
thing approaching that, would be
brought about, and that meant ruin to
Hawaii. But a small concession, say
10 per cent, would not be opposed by
Hawaii.

The Republican members of the
Ways and Means Committee are be-
ginning to line up for the fight over
Cuban reciprocity. Representative
McCall is the first to declare himself
openly in favor of reciprocity. He
made the following statement today
as to his position: "Our beet sugar in-
dustry is a rapidly growing one, and
should not be injured, but it seems
clear that it would not be affected at
all by a moderate reduction in the
duties on Cuban sugar. So long as we
import, in addition to Cuba's crop, a
great mass of sugar, paying the full
duty, raw Cuban sugar in New York
will bring the foreign or Hamburg
price with freight and full duty added.
The full benefit of a moderate reduc-
tion would inure to the Cuban pro-
ducers. The success of the little republic
is highly important to ourselves. It
will mark the boldest results of the
war with Spain, and also aid us to
solve righteously our insular problems
in another part of the world."

LOUISIANA IS HEARD

Washington, Jan. 23.—The Cuban
reciprocity hearings before the Ways
and Means Committee today were de-
voted chiefly to the sugar interests of
Louisiana, who are opposed to the
proposed concessions to Cuba on the
ground that it will cripple the sugar
production of that State. A number
of the large planters and manufactur-
ers of the State were present and the
allied interests of beet sugar and to
bacco, which are similarly opposed to
concessions to Cuba, also were num-
erously represented.

The opening statement in behalf of
the Louisiana interests was made by
J. D. Hill of New Orleans, an exten-
sive planter. He asserted that the
sugar trust was behind the Cuban
movement and presented statistics to
show that the result of concessions to
Cuba would make the sugar trust the
real beneficiary, constituting that or-
ganization a colossal monopoly in
Cuba.

Hill said it was a matter of amaz-
ement that at a time when Germany
was using the utmost effort to develop
the sugar industry those who repre-
sent the American people should con-
sider a proposition which would have
the effect of destroying the American
industry and of placing the production
of sugar under foreign control.

In answer to questions by Repre-
sentative Long of Kansas, Hill said
a 35 per cent reduction would reduce

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the price of raw sugar, but not on re-
fined, the price on the latter being
fixed in Hamburg. This reduction
of duty would not inure to the Cuban
planter, but to the foreign purchaser.
Ex-Governor Warmouth of Louisiana
made a vigorous speech opposing con-
cessions to Cuba. It was a proposi-
tion, he said, from the "syndicates
and grandees of Cuba, who had the
cheek to come before an American
Congress and ask that the industries
of our people shall be destroyed so
that they could make money out of
our merchants."

He referred to General Wood's ac-
tivity in the movement, which indi-
cated that Governor Wood had be-
come infatuated with Cuba and his
Spanish associates. This might be a
part of the Governor General's duty,
but it had not improved the credit of
Americans at the banks. The speaker
urged this concession were buy-
ing their goods in Spain and England
and yet "had the cheek" to come to
an American Congress for help.

James W. Post of the New Orleans
Board of Trade, J. S. Farr, Thomas S.
Wilkinson, George W. Mott and D. D.
Colett of Louisiana all opposed Cuban
concessions.

Robert Oxnard of San Francisco
and D. C. Corbin of Washington spoke
for the beet sugar industries in those
localities, their arguments being sub-
stantially on similar lines to those
already made.

During the examination of Robert
Oxnard, Representative Long presented
a letter from John D. Spreckels,
the California sugar producer, to
members of the committee. Spreckels
in his letter said that in his opin-
ion the beet sugar industry could
stand a small cut on raw sugar, but
not on refined sugar. Oxnard de-
clined to discuss the statements in
Spreckels' letter. Owing to the large
number of persons desiring to be
heard, Chairman Payne decided to
continue the hearing tomorrow, those
opposing Cuban concessions to have
until noon, after which hour a re-
spected that some of the officials of
Cuba will be heard in favor of reci-
procity.

OXNARD AND CUBANS

Washington, Jan. 22.—The hearing
on Cuban reciprocity was resumed be-
fore the Ways and Means Committee
today. The beet sugar interests of
the United States occupied most of
the time, being represented by Hen-
ry T. Oxnard, president of the Ameri-
can Beet Sugar Association, and by
delegates from those States interested
in sugar. The cane sugar interests
also were well represented.

At the outset, Place, at the head of
the Cuban delegation, made a state-
ment to clear up misapprehension on
Cuba's position. He had argued for
free trade, he said, as that was the
earnest wish of Cuba. But while this
was the judgment of the Cuban people,
he said, they deferred to the judgment
of the American Congress on the whole
question. He added:

"We want what you will grant, ask-
ing no more, not as much as we are
able to concede to your producers.
Without suggestion as to limitations,
we leave to your statesmanship the
questions which are to prevail be-
tween us. The sovereignty is yours
over both alike, and your determina-
tion will be accepted by us fully and
freely as by the American people them-
selves."

Oxnard made an extended statement
of the position of the beet sugar as-
sociation. He said:

"Stripped of its sentimentality and
all extraneous considerations, and
reducing the Cuban demand for free
or freer sugar to its simplest equation,
it is this: Shall the United States
through its agriculturists produce its
raw sugar, and its factories scattered
from the Atlantic to the Pacific, refine
its products, or shall it permit foreign
lands to export to it the raw material
and content itself merely with the re-
fining? That is what I fear would
eventually come to pass if you inter-
fere in any way at the present time
with the existing production of home
sugar. Capital is timid to a great de-
gree, and should Congress decide that
Cuban sugar must be helped at the ex-
pense of American beet sugar, then it

will at first hesitate and eventually
turn its back upon the further devel-
opment of beet sugar and throw its full
force into the tropical islands which
we have unduly favored and stimulat-
ed. Sugar production in Cuba today
is firmly established and the chief in-
dustry of the island, even our ene-
mies must admit that beet sugar is at
the very inception of its development
in the United States."

Oxnard characterized the Cuban
proposition as most vicious and asked
why it was that the American sugar
interests should be singled out for sac-
rifice.

REDUCE REFINED TARIFF

Washington, Jan. 23.—A plan of re-
taliation is being perfected among the
beet sugar Republicans and Demo-
crats of the House to overcome the ef-
forts of the sugar trust to have the
Cuban tariff reduced. Representative
Kahn of California proposed the plan
which was enthusiastically received by
the Republicans who are opposed to
tariff reductions. By combining
their votes with the Democrats there
will be sufficient strength, it is thought,
to force through a measure reducing
the tariff on refined sugar from Ger-
many and other countries. This is ex-
actly what the sugar trust does not
want, and a vigorous campaign in its
favor will have the effect of bidding
the trust pause in its efforts to get
raw sugar free from Cuba.

While the sugar trust and its
friends howl about the obligation of
this country to give relief to Cuba,
they confine their solicitude to the
reduction of the duty on raw sugar only,
which incidentally means larger profits
to the sugar refiners without reducing
the price to the consumers. Whenever
the tariff on refined sugar is mention-
ed the advocates of the Cuban tariff
shake their heads and say it is im-
possible and unnecessary. With the
solid vote of Michigan and California,
combined with the strong contingents
from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Con-
necticut and such strong delegations
as that of Louisiana, strictly in line, it
is believed a strong fight could be
made to reduce the tariff on refined
sugar, which would be striking the
trust in its tenderest spot.

MCCULLOCH AFTER CONDO.

San Francisco, Jan. 25.—Yesterday
afternoon the revenue cutter Hugh
McCulloch, in command of Captain
Failing, sailed for a cruise in search
of the British sloop of war Condo,
which is believed to have met disaster
on the trip from Victoria to Honolulu.
The Condo sailed from Victoria over
six weeks ago, and advices from Hon-
olulu as late as January 15th stated that
the vessel had not arrived there. The
trip of the McCulloch is made as a re-
sult of an appeal made by the British
Embassy at Washington to the Sec-
retary of the Treasury requesting that
revenue cutters keep a lookout for the
Condo. There is thought to be little
likelihood, however, that the Condo
survived the terrible storms that raged
off Cape Flattery about the time the
vessel was off that coast.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Since ex-Sec-
retary of State John W. Foster ap-
peared before the Senate Committee
on Immigration yesterday morning as
the attorney of Minister Wu Ting
Fang, and thus by proxy succeeded in
getting the arguments of the astute
Chinese against exclusion presented
before the committee and included in
a public document, there has been a
great deal of talk among the national
lawmakers. The points of discussion
are of great interest to Californians,
even though the quickly changing sit-
uations here with regard to Chinese
exclusion legislation make it difficult
for people at a distance to appreciate
the bearing of certain moves.

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